

REMARKS

This application provides for, *inter alia*, a multipack which is comprised of bags, each containing different products, which are arranged in a predetermined sequence for removal and where the superimposed edge sections of the bags are offset to each other. The inventive multipacks provide for, for example, a simpler method to administer the drugs to a patient and bags that are easier to manufacture. More specifically, the advantages, *inter alia*, with the bags being arranged in offset are: first, that the block does not exhibit the “fan out effect”; second, the individual bags can be removed from the block without the risk of errors in the predetermined order; third, the bags can be removed with more comfort and ease than the bags not so arranged; and fourth, the risk of removing two or more bags is substantially reduced in a situation where the individual bags are aligned.

It is believed that no further fee is required for the consideration of this Amendment. However, if an additional fee should be required, the Director is authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account 50-0320.

This Amendment cancels claims 29 and 31 without prejudice or the intention of creating estoppel and adds claim 42. Claim 42 finds support in the cancelled claims. Thus, no new matter is added. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application to any cancelled embodiments.

Claims 29 to 41 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over the teachings of Raffegeau, French Patent No. 2 629 729, in view of Casper, U.S. 5,422,119. Applicants have argued that as neither Raffegeau nor Casper suggests arranging the bags in the devices described therein so that superimposed edge sections of the two adjacent bags are offset with respect to each other, the rejection does not establish a *prima facie* case of

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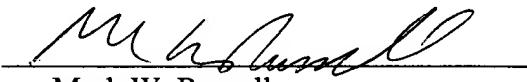
obviousness. Further, Applicants would like to emphasize that Casper teaches away from the invention as claimed. Hence, reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

Applicants respectfully urge that Casper teaches away from the element that "the at least two individual bags are joined together to form a block." In Casper, each bag is individually sealed in a protective pouch (see col. 9, lines 19-20 or col. 10, lines 30-31) and the pouches are placed into cartons (see col. 9, lines 15-16 or col. 10, lines 27-28). Thus, Casper cannot provide any suggestion to join at least two of the bags together to form a block, let alone to arrange the two adjacent bags so that the edge sections are superimposed with respect to each other. Accordingly, it is urged that the claims directed to the inventive multipacks are clearly patentable over the teachings of Raffengeau and Casper.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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